

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02382 081340Z

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TAGS: PFOR, AR, CI, VS

SUBJECT: STATEMENT FROM CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO VIETNAMESE
FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. AT ITS DISCRETION, THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS TO
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT WHICH THE VIETNAMESE CHARGE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND WHICH HE HAS ASKED THIS EMBASSY TO
FORWARD FOR HIM.

2. QUOTE. THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF CHILE CANNOT CLOSE
OUT A FEELING OF HORROR PRODUCED BY THE INHUMAN METHODS USED
BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND THE VIET CONG IN THEIR
PRESENT AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM. UNDERSTANDING THIS
FEELING, THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF CHILE ECHOES
THE CALL OF SOLIDARITY BY THE HOLY SEE WITH THE VICTIMS, AND
POINTS OUT TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE NECESSITY OF DEMANDING
THAT THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMANITARIAN PRACTICES AND
THE DICTATES OF THE CONSCIENCE, BE RESPECTED.

NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET CONG HAVE NOT ONLY
VIOLATED BY THEIR AGGRESSION THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO END THE
WAR AND RESTORE PEACE TO VIETNAM, THEY HAVE ALSO BROKEN THE
CEASEFIRE RULE AGREED ON. THEY HAVE VIOLATED IT BECAUSE
THEY HAVE IGNORED ENTIRELY THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF
SOUTH VIETNAM FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, A RIGHT CONSIDERED
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 02382 081340Z

"SACRED AND INALIENABLE".. THE CRUELITIES WHICH HAVE

CHARACTERIZED THIS AGGRESSION MAKE THE RULES ON HUMANIZATION OF WAR SET OUT IN THE HAGUE AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS VULNERABLE. THESE RULES DENY THE BELLIGERENTS THE RIGHT WITHOUT RESTRICTION TO CHOOSE THE MEANS TO ANTAGONIZE THEIR ENEMIES; THEY OBLIGE THEM TO RESPECT THE LIVES OF THE DEFEATED OR INJURED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND TO LEAVE CIVILIANS OUT OF THE FIGHT, SAFEKEEPING THEIR LIVES AND POSSESSIONS, AND REFRAINING FROM HARASSING THEM IN ANY WAY, EVEN WHEN THEY RUN AWAY, AND THEY ARE PROHIBITED TO DEVASTATE CITIES AND TOWNS WITH NO STRATEGIC VALUE.

THE CRIMES WHICH ARE BEING COMMITTED IN VIETNAM HAVE NOT MERITED UP TO NOW A REACTION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH IS TO BE LAMENTED; BUT THEY HAVE PROVOKED THE REPUGNANCE AND THE REPUDIATION OF CIVILIZED COUNTRIES, WHO MUST AVOID THE USE OF BARBARIC METHODS WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MORAL AND JUDICIAL ADVANCE OF OUR TIMES.

CONSCIOUS OF THIS DUTY, CHILE DENOUNCES THOSE CRIMES TO THE FACE OF THE WORLD, CONDEMNS THEM, EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES, AND TRUSTS THAT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WILL OBLIGE THE AGGRESSORS TO RESPECT THE NORMS OF HUMANIZATION OF WAR AND WILL CONTRIBUTE THAT WAY TO ASSUAGE THE SUFFERINGS WHICH, ONCE AGAIN, AFFLICT THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM. UNQUOTE
HILL

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